Secret Kashmir Plan

1243. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned 'Secret Kashmir Plan' appearing in the Hindustan Times dated the 17th January, 2002;

(b) whether Government have secretly agreed to carve up parts of Kashmir between the two countries and give special autonomy to the Central Kashmir valley; and

(c) if so, what is Government's version on the press media report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Government have seen the report appearing in the Hindustan Times on 17th January, 2002.

(b) No, Sir. Government's principled and consistent position is well known. The entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under the forcible and illegal occupation by Pakistan. Government are firmly committed to upholding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

(c) Does not arise.

Talks with neighbouring countries about terrorist activities

†1244. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are holding any talks with regard to the terrorists activities going on in the countries having common borders with our country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Our concern over terrorism and anti-India activities by agencies/organisations inimical to India's interests including the ISI has been conveyed to the Governments of the neighbouring countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal. Regular discussions for strengthening cooperation to curb terrorism and other illegal activities are held through existing institutional mechanisms and in the consultations at political and diplomatic level. These countries have categorically conveyed to us that they will not allow their territory to be used for activities directed against India.

Government has on numerous occasions called upon Pakistan to end its sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of India, and reiterated India's firm resolve to root out terrorism. Government has also, appropriately and effectively, brought to the attention of the international community facts pertaining to Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism. The matter has also been raised during high level interactions with several world leaders. Pakistan's involvement in cross-border terrorism is now being openly acknowledged by the international community and this is often reflected in the media coverage Pakistan receives these days.

The international community has expressed strong support for India's determination to defeat terrorism. The widespread international consensus today is that there is no justification for terrorism, which must be eradicated wherever it exists. Some countries have also called upon Pakistan to end its sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in India.

Assistance to Andhra Pradesh Haj Committee

1245. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Haj Committee has provided financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh Haj Committee for construction of Haj Houses in the State;